

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT E. VENTURA,

No. C 08-01708 SBA (PR)

Petitioner,

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
EVIDENTIARY HEARING**

v.

DARREL ADAMS, Warden,

Respondent.

Petitioner requests an evidentiary hearing in this action.

Under the AEDPA express limitations are imposed on the power of a federal court to grant an evidentiary hearing. The habeas statute provides that a district court may not hold an evidentiary hearing on a claim for which the petitioner failed to develop a factual basis in State court unless petitioner shows that: (1) the claim relies either on (a) a new rule of constitutional law that the Supreme Court has made retroactive to cases on collateral review, or (b) a factual predicate that could not have been previously discovered through the exercise of due diligence, and (2) the facts underlying the claim would be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that but for constitutional error, no reasonable fact finder would have found the applicant guilty of the underlying offense. 28 U.S.C. § 2254(e)(2).

Even if an evidentiary hearing is permitted because a prisoner was able to clear the hurdle posed by § 2254(e)(2), one is not required. Downs v. Hoyt, 232 F.3d 1031, 1041 (9th Cir. 2000).

1 The district court retains discretion whether to hold an evidentiary hearing or to expand the record
2 with discovery and documentary evidence instead. Williams v. Woodford, 384 F.3d 567, 590 (9th
3 Cir. 2004). This permissible intermediate step may avoid the necessity of an expensive and time
4 consuming hearing in every habeas corpus case. Id. at 590-91.

5 Here, as a threshold matter, Petitioner has not alleged a valid reason for why he is entitled to
6 an evidentiary hearing under § 2254(e)(2). He simply states that an evidentiary hearing "would
7 allow the record to show the enhancement(s) were illegally applied to enhance Petitioner to a greater
8 term sentence." (Mot. for Evid. Hr'g at 1.) He does not assert that his claim relies on a new rule of
9 constitutional law that the Supreme Court has made retroactive to cases on collateral review, nor
10 does he allege that the factual predicate of his claim could not have been previously discovered
11 through the exercise of due diligence. Moreover, it is not clear to the Court that the facts which
12 Petitioner seeks to develop could not be gathered other than by way of an evidentiary hearing,
13 through the use of discovery and supplementation of the record. See Downs, 232 F.3d at 1041.
14 Accordingly, the request for an evidentiary hearing is DENIED without prejudice as premature.
15 This denial is without prejudice to the Court's sua sponte reconsideration should the Court find an
16 evidentiary hearing necessary following consideration of the merits of Petitioner's claims.

17 This Order terminates Docket no. 13.

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 Dated: 1/13/09

20 
21 SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 FOR THE
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

4 ROBERT E. VENTURA,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 DARREL ADAMS et al,

8 Defendant.

Case Number: CV08-01708 SBA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

9 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District
10 Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on January 13, 2009, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said
12 copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said
13 envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located
14 in the Clerk's office.

15 Robert Elias Ventura V-80485
16 CSP - Corcoran State Prison
17 P.O. Box 3476
18 Corcoran, CA 93212-3476

19 Dated: January 13, 2009

20 Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
21 By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk
22
23
24
25
26
27
28